

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 3/2025

**EPA clarifies Eligibility of Forest-based Feedstock under the Renewable Fuel Standard.** The U.S. Forest Service and diverse stakeholders in the biofuels, forestry, and logging sectors have been working with EPA over the last many years to facilitate the eligibility of forestry feedstock under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). In 2022, the agency entered into a cooperative agreement with Strategic Biofuels to develop a practical guide that would help biofuels developers and forest landowners determine which forestry feedstocks would be considered eligible under the RFS based on EPA's current implementation of the RFS. EPA's collaboration with Strategic Biofuels and the USFS was critical to the development of this practical guide. In September 2024, Strategic Biofuels publicly issued the [Practical Guide to Forestry Feedstock Under the Renewable Fuel Standard](#). On January 7, 2025, EPA posted a [letter and enclosure](#) to its [RFS website](#) that clarify EPA's current implementation approach for forest biomass under the RFS. While the [EPA letter and enclosure](#) give much needed clarity on forestry feedstock eligibility issues under the RFS, project developers should always consult closely with EPA in the early stages of project development.

**Sawmill 202 Workshop.** The [Forest Business Alliance](#) is hosting an opportunity to learn advanced sawmill techniques at this hands-on [Sawmill 202 Workshop](#) – perfect for those looking to take their skills to the next level. Continuing the Sawmill 101 Workshop offered in 2023, the Sawmill 202 workshop will feature expert panels on Sustainable Finance, Secondary Wood Treatment, and Marketing. There will also be plenty of opportunities to interact with colleagues and ask questions to panelists. Tuesday, January 28, 9am - 4pm PST, Sacramento. [More Information and Registration here.](#)

**CalForests Forestry Strategies and Innovations.** Previously known as the Calforests Annual Conference, CalForests Forestry Strategies and Innovations (FSI) brings together the state's forestry sector and key partners in an effort to engage in critical policy level conversations, to evaluate and improve best practices, to share important knowledge and innovations, and to invite key stakeholders to further the work of forest management and wildfire protection. [Registration for FSI](#) is open for everyone! Registration closes on January 26, 2025. Join for engaging sessions and networking opportunities. [February 11 & 12, 2025](#), Sacramento.

**Brownfields in the Pacific Southwest: Vacant to Vibrant, Land Renewal.** EPA's Pacific Southwest region (Region 9), in collaboration with their technical assistance provider, the [Center for Creative Land Recycling \(CCLR\)](#), is pleased to announce their initiative – [Vacant to Vibrant, Land Renewal](#) – to share exciting, historic funding opportunities available to your community. Congress provided significant financial support for community infrastructure and reinvestment through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. EPA's Pacific Southwest Brownfields Team is reaching out to underserved communities about accessing resources to protect the environment and support community and economic development. EPA's Brownfields program supports the evaluation, cleanup, and transformation of underused properties into community benefits, such as new housing, open space, and commercial development. Redeveloped brownfields create jobs and build wealth locally. Their goal is to be an early partner in community efforts to reuse vacant land to promote a vibrant, equitable, and stronger community. Join the Center For Creative Land Recycling and EPA Region 9 staff for a three-part [Vacant to Vibrant webinar series](#) on brownfield revitalization for beginners.

**2025 Guide to Sustainable Biomass Sourcing.** The biomass-based carbon dioxide removal (CDR) industry is growing rapidly. As demand for high-durability, large-scale CDR increases, biomass-based solutions

have emerged as a clear frontrunner. Solutions like bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), biochar, and other biomass carbon removal and storage (BiCRS) pathways have, to date, comprised most of the available supply of durable CDR. Biomass-based CDR projects have potential to scale rapidly in the coming decade, and multi-million-tonne offtake agreements are already being announced. The potential to capture existing biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is measured in at least hundreds of millions of tonnes each year, even without considering the synergistic growth of industries like paper products, carbon-negative fuels, and others. Building on insights from the [2024 edition](#), the 2025 edition of [\*The Buyer's Guide to Sustainable Biomass Sourcing for Carbon Dioxide Removal\*](#) offers actionable, evidence-based guidance for biomass-based carbon dioxide removal offtake agreements, promoting sustainable sourcing practices that reduce risks and support global climate goals. Key takeaways: - Insights from nearly 20 biomass certification schemes to guide sourcing; - Ready-to-use draft contract language and flexible implementation options; - Practical tools and guardrails to support projects launching by 2026.